



Feb. 11, 2011

#### **This Week:**

- Outstanding Weekend Rescue
- Passenger Vessel Association Convention
- Plan Ahead for Chilly Hilly Bike Traffic
- Steilacoom II Returns Home to Pierce County
- Discussions Resume with Bargaining Units
- Ferry Customer Compliment

#### **Outstanding Weekend Rescue**

I would like to share my appreciation for Captain Curtis Larson and the crew of the Walla Walla for rescuing a stranded windsurfer last Sunday. The crew was alerted by the U.S. Coast Guard and asked to assist the stranded windsurfer. Under the direction of Captain Curtis Larson, the crew located the windsurfer and deployed a rescue boat to bring him aboard. I want to personally thank - Captain Curtis Larson; Chief Mate Terrence Peckham; Second Mate Chandler Thomas; Able-Bodied Seamen David High, Emelita Moniz, Al Thomas, and Ramon Resendez, Jr.; Ordinary Seamen Loa Haley, Sandra Belair St. Clair, and Vicky Munson; Chief Engineer James Illson; Assistant Engineer Christopher Kalinski; and Oilers Troy Schmidt and Jon Kustura – for a job well done!

#### **Passenger Vessel Association Convention**

Last weekend and Monday, I attended a Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) convention in St. Louis (my attendance was fully sponsored and no state money was spent). I participated in a panel discussion on “How to Analyze your Ferry Operation” and attended sessions on “The Challenges of the Large Ferry Systems,” “Sales and Marketing,” and “Does your Risk Management Plan Work.” The PVA has been of great assistance to WSF in evaluating our operations which culminated in two reports both available online at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/accountability](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/accountability).

#### **Plan Ahead for Chilly Hilly Bike Traffic**

We ask that customers of the Bainbridge Island/Seattle route plan ahead for Sun., Feb. 27. The annual Chilly Hilly Bicycle Ride will be taking place on Bainbridge Island, which means many bicyclists will be taking the ferry. Last year the event hosted over 6,000 bicyclists from around the Northwest. Please look for e-mail alerts in the coming weeks.

#### **Steilacoom II Returns Home to Pierce County**

The Steilacoom II, which operated on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route for nearly three years following the Steel Electric Class ferries’ removal from service, returned home to Pierce County as of last Friday, Feb. 4. I want to express my appreciation for Pierce County in making the Steilacoom II available to the customers of WSF. We recognize the inconvenience this posed to the county and customers of Anderson Island, and the state will forever appreciate their generosity as will the communities of Whidbey Island, Jefferson County and residents of the Olympic Peninsula.

#### **Discussions Resume with Bargaining Units**

We are pleased to be back at the table this month talking with our bargaining units – the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU), Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P), Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), metal trades, and the Marine Employees’ Beneficial Association (MEBA). We are hopeful to mutually address some of the financial challenges facing the ferry system.

#### **Ferry Customer Compliment**

I received an appreciative email from a San Juan Islands ferry customer complimenting Ordinary Seaman Andy Brooks who worked on the Hyak the evening of Feb. 7. Many thanks to Mr. Brooks for his outstanding customer service.

*Andy is a top notch employee for WSF! He should be commended for his excellent customer service skills, friendly and cheerful attitude, and solid work skills. As islanders, we know what riding the ferry can be like, with widely variable conditions (weather, passengers, etc.) from winter to summer. Every time we encounter Andy on the ferry ride, he is reliably courteous and does his work well. If I was looking to hire someone, he would be my choice. Let him know that he's doing a great job.*

**Next Week:**

- Continuation of briefings with members from the House and Senate Transportation Committees
- Meetings with our bargaining units
- Senate Transportation Committee Meeting

David Moseley's weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly).

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